

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 06336 180526Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1081

S E C R E T TAIPEI 6336

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, TW

SUBJECT: ROC'S NUCLEAR INTENTIONS

REF: TAIPEI 6330

1. VICE FORMIN FRED CHIEN PASSED TO DCM LAST NIGHT (SEPT.
17) REVISED VERSION OF NOTE DISCUSSED REFTEL.

2. FIRST FOUR (4) PARAGRAPHS OF REVISED NOTE ARE UNCHANGED
FROM THE ORIGINAL. NEW PARAGRAPHS 5 AND 6 READ AS FOLLOWS:

A. "PURSUANT TO THE CONVERSATIONS PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO
HAD WITH AMBASSADOR UNGER ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1976, THE MINISTRY
IS INSTRUCTED TO REAFFIRM THE ASSURANCES THAT THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER TO
DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE, OR TO
ENGAGE IN ANY ACTIVITIES RELATED TO REPROCESSING PURPOSES."

B. "THE GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME IT, IF THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER RECOMMENDING TWO OR THREE NUCLEAR
SCIENTISTS TO SERVE AS ADVISORS TO CHINESE AGENCIES CONCERNED
IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA WITH EMOLUMENT AND OTHER EXPENSES
TO BE BORNE BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND WORK JOINTLY IN
PROJECTS OF NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN ALL THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA NUCLEAR FACILITIES."

3. CHIEN CONFIRMED THAT THE LANGUAGE OF PARAGRAPH 5 MEANT
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SECRET

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 06336 180526Z

THAT THE ROC "WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH REPROCESSING

IN ANY SHAPE OR FORM". THE INER HOT CELL REPROCESSING LABORATORY PROJECT IS TO BE TERMINATED AND ABANDONED IMMEDIATELY. CHIEN ALSO CONFIRMED THAT SHOULD THE USG RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE PREMIER'S OFFER TO ACCEPT USG EXPERTS, THESE EXPERTS WOULD HAVE "COMPLETE ACCESS TO ALL ROC NUCLEAR FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES". CHIEN SAID THAT THE PREMIER HAD ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS THAT EVERYTHING SHOULD BE DONE TO ELIMINATE ANY SUSPICION OR DOUBT ABOUT THE GROC'S NUCLEAR INTENTIONS. THE PREMIER WANTED NO LINGERING AMBIGUITIES ON THIS MATTER, AND HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GROC WOULD REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTIVITIES WHICH THE UG FOUND OBJECTIONABLE.

4. CHIEN EXPLAINED THAT THEIR MODIFICATIONS OF THE TEXTUAL CHANGES RECOMMENDED BY THE EMBASSY WERE REQUIRED SIMPLY BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF TRANSLATING OUR ENGLISH VERSION INTO CHINESE. HE ASSURED DCM THAT THEIR CHANGES DID NOT REFLECT ANY INTENTION TO CHANGE SUBSTANCE IN ANY WAY.

5. CHIEN SAID THAT THE NOTE WOULD NOT BE RELEASED TO THE PRESS AT THIS TIME BUT THAT THE GROC HAS NO OBJECTION TO OUR USING IT AS WE SEE FIT IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPCOMING SFRC HEARINGS. IF OUR DECISION IS TO MAKE THE NOTE AVAILABLE TO THE CONGRESS, HOWEVER, CHIEN REQUESTS THAT THE GROC BE SO INFORMED IMMEDIATELY. IN THIS EVENT, THE GROC WILL PROBABLY DECIDE TO RELEASE THE NOTE TO THE PRESS SHORTLY AFTER IT SHALL HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO CONGRESS. WHATEVER OUR INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE USE WE DECIDE TO MAKE OF THE NOTE, EMBASSY BELIEVES, AS A MATTER OF COURTESY, WE SHOULD PROMPTLY INFORM GROC.

6. EMBASSY CONSIDERS NOE FULLY MEETS OUR REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES REGARDING ROC'S NUCLEAR INTENTIONS.
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